they appear to have been among the first in the tractor 'business' and note that when they started there were only some half dozen large tractors already in use in Malta.

When the original tractor was imported along with a trailing plow it was found very difficult to negotiate the tortuous Maltese country tracks. They have since shortened the fitment and adapted it for carriage high above the ground in transit. Unlike CASE XIV these brothers maintain that the 'crawling' type of tractor is better suited to Maltese conditions than is the wheeled as it can cope more easily with rough ground and with mud.

Although they have no competitors in the immediate vicinity, they complain that:

(i) The introduction of the small hand rotary cultivator in recent years has caused a set-back in their business. It is clearly a less unwieldy implement for many small or narrow fields than is the large tractor and one which is cheap enough for a farmer to purchase fairly easily. However the brothers have increased the variety of special fitments which they can operate with their tractors and have thus to some extent retained their business.

(ii) There are at present too many large tractors for the work available. The brothers would be pleased if several of them would go out of business.

CASE XVI

Two brothers have three wheeled tractors, a threshing machine and two rotary cultivators. Holding only some three acres of land themselves they depend primarily on their tractor-hire business which they began, with a single tractor, shortly before the 1939-45 War. At present business is declining for the reasons mentioned in CASE XV. One of the brothers insists that the Government should prohibit the import of any more tractors into the Island in an effort to reduce the competition. As for rotary cultivators they observe that these implements can be used almost all the year round and are better suited for general cultivation work than is the tractor-drawn deep plow.

CASE XVII

A plowman with two large tractors (both 'caterpillar' tracked and one converted into a bulldozer), this Case illustrates some further points. He acquired his first machine early in the 1939-45 War and has built up his business so successfully that he now farms only a single acre himself relying for his income on the profits of the short plowing season and on his contract work throughout the year with his bull-dozer. His area of operation stretches from St. Paul's Bay in the north of Malta to Benghajsa in the extreme south, where he works for at least two full weeks per year. He also hires his threshing machine in widely scattered parts of the Island. This occupies him for some two months each summer.

His major complaints are (i) the high price of diesel oil, and (ii) the fact that tractor operators are forbidden by law to drive their machines on public highways. On the question of 'over-lap' between contractors he wants the Government to delimate areas of operation for each man, an impracticable suggestion which would, he imagines, remove the necessity for his having to seek work at great distances from his village. His attitude on this point contrasts with his desire to import a new threshing machine as soon as possible.

CASE XVIII

In this case, a farmer works his tractor-hire business in conjunction with a friend. He bought a Chalmers tractor shortly before 1939 and has recently acquired a second machine - an Olivier. The area which he and his partner work with their tractors and 14" plow has become more limited of late on account of the increased use of rotary cultivators, especially as these are often user-owned.

159 He insists that the Government should stop imports of new
407 machines in face of the present decline in the demand for
407 contract deep-plowing. He sees himself and many farmer-
477 contractors like him going out of business in the near future.

CASE XII

This farmer (working 35 tmion, including seven irrigable)
[178] was among the first to acquire machinery in the 1930's. He
speaks of the slow start made in deep-plowing on account of
the suspicion of most farmers who continued to use the mule
or horse-drawn wooden plow exclusively for some years.
Mechanized plowing is now fully accepted, he says, and, for
the contracting plowman, is still a most profitable venture
despite the present fierce competition for business.

CASE XI

X
154 Whereas CASE XIV-XIX have concerned plowing and threshing
407 contractors whose own fields are of secondary importance as a
241 source of income, this man is typical of the growing number of
434 farmers who see mechanization as the means whereby they them-
selves can cultivate a large holding. With his single tractor
he cultivates some 35 tmion single handed and supplements his
income from this holding by only a limited amount of contract-
plowing in the summer season.

[245] He notes that a further reason for the decline in demand
[178] for the deep-plow on contract is the recent increase in the
area under vines (due to the steady demand for wine-grapes by
local vintners).

CASE XXI

X
154 This Gozitan is a part-time contract plowman whose main
256 occupation is not farming but baking. His father was a salt-
241 seller but this business went up a brother shortly before the
407 1939-45 War whereupon this man decided to go in for full-time
472 contract plowing and threshing. For many years he remained
[477] the sole such operator in his village and business grew. How-
ever in the present decade competition from new tractor oper-
ators has "halved the work available in the summer plowing
season" for his plows and threshing machine. This prompted
him to build a bakery in 1954 to which he has since devoted
all his time. However the tractor and threshing machine are
still retained and are worked by a son as the demand arises.

CASE XXII

X
159 Another Gozitan, this English-speaking and astute man is
441 not himself a contract plowman but is a dealer and Agent for
472 tractors, rotary cultivators and other agricultural machinery.
407 His father began the import of tractors to the Island, but
[191] those were wheeled and soon found to be unsatisfactory for
local conditions. The first 'crawling' tractor was intro-
duced in 1939 and has since been found to be well suited to
the steep paths and fields and the small plots in Gozo, ! especially in wet weather. Since 1951 the use of rotary cultivators has spread rapidly through the Island and has led to a sharp decline in the work available to the deep-plowing tractors. Of twelve of the latter at present in the Island some three or four are normally unused in the season. This agent sparks of an agreement among the tractor operators of Gozo to limit individual spheres of operation during the 1957 plowing season.

[178] Like CASE XIV this man has been prepared to introduce
new implements. His father was the first to import motor
pumps (1920), while he himself brought in the first cultiva-
tor in 1951. His latest idea has been the import of har-
vesting machines, but the very limited success of the first
ten which he brought in has discouraged him from buying any
more. He observes that the fields of Gozo are too small for
mechanization on this scale and that the harvester leaves a
lot of straw in the ground which the farmer insists must be
collected for animal fodder.